| | State/UT | Total Electros | No. of Electors with Defect-free Identity Card | Percentage of 3 to 2 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 19. | Rajasthan £ | 29738496 | 18743095 | 63.03 |
| 20. | Sikkim % | 236321 | 200077 | 84.66 |
| 21. | Tamil Nadu % | 45577323 | 19755955 | 45.00 |
| 22. | Tripura | 1725809 | 1213154 | 70.29 |
| 23. | Uttar Pradesh | 101943066 | 53017467 | 52.01 |
| 24. | West Bengal £ | 46832298 | 34389847 | 73.43 |
| 25. | Andaman & Nicobar Islands £ | 231928 | 177810 | 76.67 |
| 26. | Chandigarh % | 533222 | 375406 | 70.4 |
| 2'/. | Dadra & Nagar Haveli | 95832 | 63650 | 66.47 |
| 28. | Daman & Diu $ | 71931 | 45645 | 63.00 |
| 29. | NCT of Delhi & | 8313868 | 5705390 | 68.62 |
| 30. | Lakshadweep % | 36738 | 31032 | 84.47 |
| 31. | Pondicherry % | 665486 | 555675 | 83.50 |
| | ALL INDIA | 597748773 | 363133515 | 60.75 |

NOTE: $ 15.4.98, * 15.5.98, t 15.8.98, & 30.8.98, £ 30.9.98, % 31.10.98

* In Mizoram the work has not yet commenced.
In J & K, Scheme not notified under Rule 28 of the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960.

**Right to choose time and place of death as a fundamental right**

2579. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a writ petition has been filed in the Kerala High Court seeking legal pronouncement to the effect that provisions of FR should include the right to choose one's time and place of death;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Hon'ble High Court has issued notices to the Union and the State Governments in the matter;

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(d) whether Government would consider making necessary provisions in the Constitution?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. THAMBI DURAI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) At present, the matter is sub-judice.

**Eligibility to Contest Elections**

2580. DR. KARAN SINGH:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have caused any opinion polls in view of the statement

made by the Election Commissioner, stressing the need for a minimum standard of education for eligibility to contest elections to the State Legislatures and the Parliament; if so, the outcome thereof; and

(b) what decision and steps, if any, have been taken by Government in the light of the Election Commissioner's statement?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. THAMBI DURAI): (a) .No, Sir.

(b) No proposal for fixing a minimum standard of education for eligibility to contest elections, is under consideration of the Government.

**Supreme Court decision regarding appointment of Judges**

2581. DR. KARAN SINGH:
SHRI S.M. KRISHNA:
SHRMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court in its recent directives restricted the right of Chief Justice in the matter of appointment of the Judges of the Supreme Court and the High Courts; if so, what are the implications of the judgement;

(b) the number of posts of Judges lying vacant in the Supreme Court and the High Courts, State-wise at present; and

(c) whether Government have taken initiative to fill up the vacant posts in the light of the above judgement of Supreme Court bench and by when the posts would be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. THAMBI DURAI): (a) Since some doubts and differences arose on -the scope and extent of consultation for appointment of Judges, as envisaged in the Supreme Court's judgment of October 6, 1993, it was decided that the opinion of the Supreme Court may be obtained under Art. 143(1) of the Constitution of India. The Presidential Reference made to the Court has been disposed of by an unanimous opinion whereby the Chief Justice of India is obliged to made appropriate consultation.

(b) The requisite information is enclosed in the Statement. *(See* below).

(c) Appropriate steps to fill up the existing vacancies of Judges in the Supreme Court and the High Courts have been initiated in consultation with concerned Constitutional authorities.

**Statement**

| SI. No. | High Court | Vacancies of Judges as on 10.12.1998 |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Allahabad | 28 |
| 2. | Andhra Pradesh | 15 |
| 3. | Bombay | 15 |
| 4. | Calcutta | 17 |
| 5. | Delhi | ' 7 |
| 6. | Gauhati | 3 |
| 7. | Gujarat | 5 |
| 8. | Himachal Pradesh | |
| 9. | Jammu & Kashmir | 3<br>3 |
| 10. | Karnataka | 6 |
| 11. | Kerala | 6 |
| 12. | Madhya Pradesh | 8 |
| 13. | Madras | 7 |
| 14. | Orissa | 3 |
| 15. | Patna | 8 |
| 16. | Punjab & Haryana | 15 |
| 17. | Rajasthan | 10 |
| 18. | Sikkim | 2 |
| | TOTAL | 161 |